

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32784

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR VN US

SUBJECT: US-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS: ARRANGEMENTS FOR
NOVEMBER 12 MEETING

REF: PARIS 32534

1. EMBOFF SAW SRV FIRST SECRETARY DO THANH AT 10:30
NOVEMBER 5TH TO CONVEY DEPT. VIEWS IN REFTEL.

2. RECORDINGS: WE STATED OUR STRONG PREFERENCE THAT
THERE BE NO TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE MEETING AS
INCOMPATIBLE WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE AND
THE INFORMALITY WE HAD AGREED ON. DO THANH SAID HE
THOUGHT "HIS SIDE" WISHED JUST AS STRONGLY TO TAPE
THE MEETINGS. IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE OUR FEELING ON THE
SUBJECT, WE DID NOT AT THIS TIME INFORM DO THANH THAT
IF THE VIETNAMESE INSISTED ON RECORDING THE SESSIONS,
WE WOULD DO THE SAME. DO THANH WILL CALL US BACK ON
THIS SUBJECT. WE SUGGEST THE DEPT CONSIDER, AS AN
ALTERNATIVE POSITION, THAT WE INFORM THE VIETNAMESE
THAT THEY MAY RECORD THE SESSIONS ON THEIR PEPREMISES,
BUT MAY NOT DO SO WHEN THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON OUR
PREMISES. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, THE VIETNAMESE
COULD NOT SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIM TO HAVE THE FULL RECORD
OF ALL THAT TRANSPIRED AND WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT
TO EXPLOIT FOR PUBLICITY THE RECORDINGS WHICH THEY
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DID HAVE. IF WE RECORD ALSO, THE VIETNAMESE MAY

BELIEVE THEY CAN MOVE TO PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION BASED ON THE DOUBLE SET OF RECORDS, ONE OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF SUCH "RECIPROCITY." IF VIETNAMESE PERSIST IN DESIRING TO RECORD, AND THE DEPARTMENT PREFERS US TO RECORD ALSO, WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EQUIPMENT AND INFORM DO THANH.

3. INFORMAL STATEMENT: WE TOLD DO THANH WE WOULD PROVIDE AN INFORMAL TEXT OF THE OPENING STATEMENT AND ASKED THEM TO PREPARE THEIR OWN FOR US. DO THANH SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH "HIS SIDE." WE GATHER THAT THE DEPT WILL PREPARE THE COMPLETE OPENING STATEMENT AND PROVIDE IT TO US BY CABLE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE FACILITIES HERE FOR PREPARING AN INFORMAL FRENCH TRANSLATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED WHETHER THE DEPT INTENDS TO SEND A TRANSLATION IN FRENCH. SINCE NOVEMBER 11TH IS A FRENCH HOLIDAY, WE WISH TO PLAN POSSIBLE OVERTIME AHEAD.

4. PRESS HANDLING: DO THANH AGREED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH WE INTEND TO HANDLE THE PRESS, BUT REITERATED THE VIETNAMESE VIEW THAT THE HEADS OF THE DELEGATION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS THE TYPE OF COMMENT WHICH MAY BE MADE ON THE MEETINGS BY EACH SIDE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT EACH SIDE WAS FREE TO RAISE ANY SUBJECT IT CHOSE. WE GATHER THAT THE "FYI INSTRUCTIONS ON PRESS HANDLING" WILL DEAL WITH US HANDLING OF THE PRESS AND WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE VIETNAMESE.

5. INFORMING GOF: WE INFORMED QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA NOIVILLE AT 11:00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 7 REFTEL. HE THANKED US FOR INFORMING HIM AND SAID GOF WILL PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION. NOIVILLE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WOULD INFORM HIM OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE LUNCHEON HELD FOR THACH TODAY.

6. FURTHER MEETINGS: EMBOFF REITERATED THAT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WOULD BE FIXED AFTER CONSULTATIONS
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WITH THE GOVERNMENTS, A PROPOSAL WHICH VIET NAM HAS ALWAYS ACCEPTED.

7. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER WHEN DO THANH CALLS US BACK, PARTICULARLY ON THE PROBLEM OF RECORDING.
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